

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are canceled. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 6 and 7 are allowed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance for Claims 6 and 7 and such is earnestly requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Otani et al. (JP 2000-223106) in view of Amano et al. (US 5,416,149), and further in view of Nakamura et al. (EP 0805172 A2), for the reasons of record.

B. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Kung (US 5,389,471) in view of Amano et al., and further in view of Nakamura et al., for the reasons of record.

Applicants respond as follows.

Although Applicants do not acquiesce in the propriety of these rejections, for purposes of advancing prosecution, Applicants cancel Claims 1-5, making the rejection of these claims moot.

Accordingly, only allowed Claims 6-7 are pending, and Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

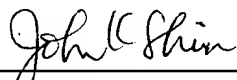
Respectfully submitted,

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